

Hello and welcome to the first edition of our centre newsletter. The newsletters will be out every quarter. Next one will be March 2012.

YES It's Official we are OUTSTANDING.



Ofsted conducted an inspection of Longsight Children's Centre at the beginning of July including the nursery. We are pleased to announce that we received outstanding.



Big Life Staff Awards

- Over 100 staff came together for the Big Life's group annual staff awards which saw staff recognised for demonstrating our values. YES - Aisha Childcare and SureStart Longsight team won the **Inspiring Award 2011.**

Meet Liz Thompson – Centre Leader at SureStart Children’s Centre Longsight



Give us a few examples of what you expect to do on a ‘typical day’

As Longsight Children’s Centre Leader I will be working closely with the local community, our teams and partner agencies to ensure that Longsight people and the wider community have fair access to the centre and the services that we offer, some of that will mean building on established relationships and showcasing what we do to people who do not traditionally use the centre to encourage increased participation.

What are you working on at the moment?

Getting to know people in the centre and in the company, at Longsight I am introducing a pilot on Person Centred Thinking which will equip teams with the skills to provide and promote a truly inclusive service which puts children and their families at the heart of their support, meeting their needs and increasing their aspirations.

What did you do before coming here?

I worked for a company called IAS managing a supported Housing Network for people with Learning Disabilities in Salford.

Had you heard about the Big Life Group before coming here, and why did you decide to work here?

Yes, I have worked with marginalised groups who earned a living by selling the big issue and have accessed support in the Zion and Kath

Locke Centres. The ethos and values of the Big Life Group reflect my own and striving to ensure that people have equal access to life opportunities and support to increase and develop life skills is my passion, I am really happy to be working here and looking forward to working in an integrated way with my colleagues and partner agencies.

What has been your most inspiring moment in your career to date?

I was privileged to support a young girl who had been living on the streets because for her it was better than living at home. When we first met she didn’t make eye contact and rarely spoke, she was anorexic, using drugs and had no trust for adults, yet she still had it in her to make contact with support services.

She gradually came off drugs and left support services a healthy weight, she was accessing education and had enough self esteem & the strength with support and encouragement, to begin to re kindle relationships with the family that despite everything she still valued. She did this on her own terms and began to forge a life for herself; she previously had no life expectations other than to be ill treated, and it took fantastic strength of character and determination for her to do so well in life, her journey was a humbling experience for me and one of the main inspirations for me to continue to work with people who are marginalised by society.

Who would you most like to meet?

I would have loved to have met Audrey Hepburn – one of life’s true iconic figures who because of her own childhood experiences went on to work with UNICEF and was appointed as their special ambassador and became actively involved in campaigns to improve conditions for children around the world.

What would be your ideal day off, what would you do and who would you spend it with?

People often describe me as driven when at work, when I’m not in work I like to switch off and relax completely, I rarely plan ahead for days off preferring to decide what I’m going to do on the day, my ideal day is spent doing very little in the morning and catching up with family or friends in the afternoon.

One thing we don’t know about you is...

I’m a keen amateur photographer and love capturing people when they are at ease and not posing for the camera.

Meet the Team: Early Intervention Team E.I.T. (Family Support)

Top left to right –
Ena Wilson, Anne Feely, Heather
Shaw and Sheryl Watson

Middle left to right:
Stephanie Clench, Deirdre Beaver
Bottom Left to right:
Sonia Lindsay, Dolly Bedi



The Early Intervention team, offer a family support service. They aim to support families who feel they need a little extra help.

We will assist you to meet the needs of the family any time from pregnancy until your children reach school age (0 – 5 years old).

A package of support will be drawn up with your direction and tailored to your needs.

We also offer 'Talktime' sessions, where you can drop in and talk to a family support worker.

The talktime sessions in Longsight take place at:

Surestart Longsight Children Centre, every Tuesday 1:00-3:00pm

and also at

Newbank Medical Centre, every Wednesday: 9:30am - 11:30am.

To contact the EIT Team please call 0161 248 1500 or email: surestart.reception@thebiglifecompany.com

Coming soon..... Fissybaby café

Hello my name is Fisayo and I will be running the cafe at SureStart in Longsight. It will be open on January 9th 2012. The café will be open every Monday, Wednesday and Fridays.

Im a mother of 3 children, I enjoy cooking for all special occasions. I plan parties and cater for all. I love meeting new people and just having a laugh. I'm looking forward to being a part of the centre and the community.



GROUP Christmas Parties....

Christmas Party Little Steps

Date: 15th December

Venue: Levenshulme Children's Centre

Time: 13.00-15.00

Bring a dish, gifts, dress up, singing, and lots of fun

Outreach Longsight & Levenshulme team are based at SureStart Children's Centre

Please donate £1.00 for gifts
We will be waiting to see you!

Outreach Christmas Party

Date: Monday 12th December 2011

10am to 12pm

Friday 16th December 2011

Time: 10.00am-12.00pm or
1pm to 3pm

Venue: Longsight Children's Centre

Please pick one date!

Bring a dish
Meet Father Christmas
Music and Singing

Longsight Family Fun Saturday

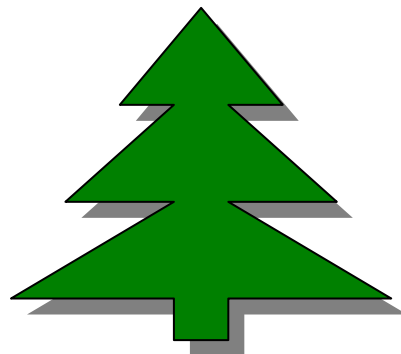
Date: 10th December 2011

Venue: Longsight Children's Centre

Time: 10.00am-12.00pm

Activities:

Painting
Sand and water play
Messy play
Healthy snacks
Stories and singing



We are changing our name.... Aisha Childcare to become...

Staff news

We would like to congratulate Shamshad who has now had a baby girl named Aizah who was born on 13th of October 11.

Leaving?

Is your child leaving this term to start school? If so, please let your key worker or the nursery office know, including which school your child is moving on to. Parents are required to give one month's written notice to Leah Chikamba if they are leaving Aisha. If notice is not received four weeks payment will be required in lieu of notice.

Contact details

Got a new phone? Moved home? Please let us know, as we need up to date contact details for you. This is to ensure that we can contact you if there is an emergency, but also that letters and other mailings reach you. Please fill in the change of contact form available from the nursery office or your key worker. Thank you.

Nursery Dates to remember

13th December - Children's Christmas lunch

16TH December - Children's Christmas party parents/carers welcome

23rd December - last day before Christmas – nursery will close early at **3.00pm we will re-open on the 3rd of January at the usual time of 8.00 am**

13th January – Nursery Closed for staff training

Know someone looking for a nursery place?

We currently have some full and part time child places within our rooms, if you know of anyone looking for childcare for their child please ask them to contact us on 0161 248 1500. Thank you!

Big Life Young People's project [for 12-19 years old]

We're developing a street and centre based project to engage young people in the Longsight area and want you to be involved get a voice in your community, meet new friends, learn new skills and have fun.

You'll get the chance to volunteer, trips out, sporting activities, access to computers and learn new skills.

Drop in group sessions

When: Fridays 5.30pm to 8.30pm

Where: SureStart Longsight

Out on the Street

When: Saturdays 2pm to 5pm

For more information please contact Nicola Keating on 07906 760 642 or email Vee Johnson on vee3johnson@yahoo.co.uk

December 2011 Activities

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Monday 5 th , 12 th & 19 th	1pm – 3pm	Stay N Play	Longsight Sure Start Children's Centre
Monday 5 th , 12 th & 19 th	10am – 12pm	Toast & Talk Group	Longsight Sure Start Children's Centre
Wednesday 7 th , 14 th & 21 st	1.30pm – 3pm	Baby Clinic	Longsight Sure Start Children's Centre
Wednesday 7 th , 14 th & 21 st	1.30pm – 3pm	Outreach Drop In	Longsight Sure Start Children's Centre
Thursday 1 st , 8 th , 15 th & 22 nd	1pm – 3pm	Manchester Women's Aid Drop In	Longsight Sure Start Children's Centre
Thursday 1 st , 8 th , 15 th & 22 nd	2.15pm – 2.45pm	Story Time	Longsight Library
Thursday 1 st , 8 th , 15 th & 22 nd	10am – 12pm	Butterfly Group	Longsight Sure Start Children's Centre
Thursday 1 st , 8 th , 15 th & 22 nd	1pm – 3pm	Little Steps	Longsight Sure Start Children's Centre
Friday 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th & 23 rd	1pm – 3pm	Development Through Play	Longsight Sure Start Children's Centre
Friday 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th & 23 rd	1pm – 2.30pm	Stay N Play	Slade Lane Sure Start Children's Centre
Friday 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th & 23 rd	10am – 12pm	Shapla Group	Longsight Sure Start Children's Centre
Saturday 10 th December	10am – 12pm	Family Fun Day	Longsight Sure Start Children's Centre

Toast & Talk – Come & relax with a cup of tea and talk to our staff & each other about what's going on in your centre.

Shapla Group – For women from the Bengali community to access support, information & advice.

Little Steps – A session for babies & their parents where they will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities listen to stories & join in with songs & rhymes.

Stay N Play – Play based session for children & their parents, lots of messy fun for all with stories, singing & much more.

Outreach Drop In – If you would like to know what's on for you & your family in the local area please come & speak to a member of the team.

Development Through Play – A monthly session run by the Aisha Crèche Team & Pre School Special Needs, & is aimed for parents that have concerns about their children's development. Parents get the chance to meet other families where they have a developmental delay, learning difficulties or disability.

Family Fun Day – A chance for all the family to come together & take part in variety of creative activities & join in singing & story sessions.

Manchester Women's Aid Drop In – Confidential help, advice & support by a trained member of staff from Manchester's Women's Aid.

For further enquiries please visit:

Longsight Surestart Children's Centre, 1a Farrer Rd, Longsight, M13 0QX

Tel: 0161 248 1500

The Big Life group, which manages Longsight Children’s Centre, wants to develop a high quality primary school in Longsight on the site next to Longsight Children’s Centre.

This would provide a learning and development environment and primary education service for children from birth to eleven years old.

We wanted to tell you a bit about the vision for the school and find out what you think.

- The school will offer places to all children using the day nursery and playgroup at Surestart Longsight Children’s Centre.
- Children will naturally progress into school, without the trauma of separation from their friends and all that is familiar.
- Friendships and social contact will be nurtured between families from different communities, and families will be encouraged to share and learn about each other’s faiths and cultural traditions.
- Parents will have the opportunity to volunteer and contribute their time and skills and be actively engaged in their child’s learning and development.
- Parents will have the chance to take up training opportunities, building on the current NVQ in Childcare and Education.
- We will offer training for Teachers and Teachers Assistants in partnership with a local University.
- We will offer extended hours for parents working shifts, and a range of after school activities for young people in the area.
- The Children’s Centre will continue to provide accommodation to services working with local families to improve their lives – including welfare rights, births registrations, health visitors, social workers and family support services.

The school would provide a curriculum based on the early years foundation in line with Ofsted guidance and will cover social and emotional development, will build self-esteem and promote positive physical and mental health. It will ensure that children from the local area receive the highest standards of education, learning and development, providing the best start in life.

We plan to build on the successful track record of the Longsight Children’s Centre - which was recently awarded Outstanding by Ofsted and has successfully brought children and families from different local communities, together. We look forward to working with local parents and families deliver this exciting project

✂.....

We would like to know your views about the Free School?

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email Address:

- **I support the Free School development:** YES NO
- **I would choose this school as my first choice for my child/children:** YES NO
- **I would like to be involved in the development of the school and join the parent’s steering group:** YES NO
- **Please keep me updated about the free school by:** EMAIL POST MEETINGS

If you would like any further information about the Longsight Free School please contact Sam Palmer on 0161 248 1500 or email: sam.palmer@thebiglifecompany.com

**Please hand your completed slip to reception*

Where to find us...



Contact us:

**Sure Start Children's Centre
1a Farrer Road
Longsight
Manchester M13 0QX**

Tel: 0161 248 1500

Fax: 0161 248 4777

Email:

surestart.reception@thebiglifecompany.com

pay.com

www.thebiglifegroup.com

Aisha Childcare

Tel: 0161 248 1516/1526

www.aishachildcare.com

If you would like to add information to the next Newsletter due out in March 2012 please email Dee: daksha.sijuwade@thebiglifecompany.com or call the centre on 0161 248 1500

From all at Longsight Sure Start & Big Life Families have a great Christmas and start to 2012. We hope to see you at the centre in the new year!